

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 167261  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 INRE-00 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
/023 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JSBOARDMAN:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ  
EA/P:WMAGRUDER  
-----105928 182218Z /75  
O 182158Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 167261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON PRISONER RELEASE

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON  
RELEASE OF EMERGENCY MEASURE PRISONERS:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE  
KOREAN GOVERNMENT THAT PRISONERS BEING HELD UNDER  
EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE WILL BE RELEASED?

A. WE CLEARLY ARE GRATIFIED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY  
WILL BE RELEASED. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN  
KOREA, IN THIS COUNTRY, AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT THESE  
PRISONERS.

Q. DID U.S. PRESSURE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS  
RELEASE?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 167261

A. THIS OBVIOUSLY WAS KOREAN GOVERNMENT DECISION AND  
WE WERE NOT INVOLVED. I WOULD NOTE, IN ANY CASE, THAT  
IT FOLLOWS BY SOME TEN DAYS A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION BY THE  
KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO BE  
LENIENT WITH THE PRISONERS.

Q. WAS UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT TO SEOUL RECENTLY  
CONNECTED WITH THIS MOVE BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT?

A. NO.

2. AT JULY 18 NOON BRIEFING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN  
FOLLOWED PREPARED GUIDANCE. IN ADDITION WHEN ASKED IF THE  
U.S. DOES NOT FAVOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS  
GENERALLY, HE REPLIED THAT WE HAVE STATED THAT POLITICAL  
RIGHTS ARE ONE OF THE RIGHTS WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ALL  
OVER THE WORLD. ASKED ABOUT RECENT SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS  
OF CONCERN, HE SAID WE HAVE NOTED THIS ON A NUMBER OF  
OCCASIONS.

3. SPOKESMAN TOOK QUESTION AS TO THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS  
BEING HELD. WE NOTE THAT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT 260 IN  
CUSTODY IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER EMBASSY REPORTS  
SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THIS. WOULD APPRECIATE  
LATEST ESTIMATE OF THOSE STILL BEING HELD. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE167261  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JSBOARDMAN:JCM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770256-0492  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770746/aaaabnky.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 607d1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1826210  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS GUIDANCE ON PRISONER RELEASE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, KS, US  
**To:** SEOUL  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/607d1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009